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LB 607

dollars, but of the amount that was supposed to go to the of the \$100,000 at one time that was for geothermal energy, did I understand that you are using that now for General Fund purposes, we might say?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Remmers, the committee amendment retained that portion in the Governor's bill for the \$100,000 that was to be used for geothermal grants and it is to be used for administrative costs within the department.

SENATOR REMMERS: Okay, that. . . .

SENATOR WARNER: . . . That would be a General Fund reduction, yes.

SENATOR REMMERS: . . . that answers my question and I just want to speak just briefly. As maybe some of you remember I certainly opposed taking the money, using it for school weatherization plan. I believe the bill originally two years ago called for a grandiose scheme of using it for weatherizing not only school buildings, but it went much farther than that. I hope we don't forget the philosophy of the permanent school fund. The idea of course of these severance taxes we use for, we use some of our resources a day but the permanent school leaves some of those resources for the future for education. The same philosophy we had in our permanent school and our school lands. The idea was that there would still be something for generations to come to finance education. It seems to me that it is very easy to use funds of that kind for instant gratification. As the bill originally came out to use a million dollars of that really for, you might say, General Fund purposes. That was never the original intent but it is very tempting to use those funds for instant gratification. I realize that this is not a time to go into the permanent school fund issue, but I do think it is pinpointed here that we begin to use these monies not for schools, but we are using for many other things. I object at even using for the schools for the weatherization plan because the weatherization plan simply gave the money to schools that haven't done anything. But here, it is only a small amount a hundred thousand dollars, there was an attempt to take out another million. I hope that we will not continue to be tempted to use these monies for other purposes and I oppose this amendment because I don't even want that one hundred thousand dollars to be used for purposes other than for school funds. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? Senator Vickers.